

May 22, 2012 Bulletin 120 Update

The May 22, 2012, Bulletin 120 (B120) Update has been completed and it is posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up> . The forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of May 22, 2012.

Next Update:

The next forecast will be the Bulletin 120 Update for conditions on May 29, 2012. It will be available on May 31, 2012.

Forecast Summary:

Considering the rivers forecasted in the B120 update, the projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 43 percent of average on the Kern River to 90 percent of average on the Inflow to Shasta Lake. The forecasts have decreased 1 percent on average from last week. However, forecasts for the American and the Stanislaus increased due to larger flows than expected in May.

Runoff:

May unimpaired flows range between 50 percent of average for the Kern River and 82 percent of average for the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge. The American River and rivers to the north are flowing at rates from 76 to 82 percent of normal. The rivers south of the American are flowing at rates from 50 to 67 percent of normal for May except for the Mokelumne River (72 percent) and the Kaweah River (73 percent).

Precipitation:

The Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index gained nothing in two weeks. May's total-to-date remains at 0.2 inches which is only 10 percent of the average monthly total. The seasonal total through May 23 is 39.9 inches which is 85 percent of average-to-date and 80 percent of an average water year. The San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index still shows no precipitation in May. The seasonal total through May 23 remains at 24.0 inches which is 63 percent of average-to-date and 59 percent of an average water year.

Snowpack:

Regionally, the snow sensor data is indicating that the Northern Sierra, Central Sierra, and Southern Sierra snowpack are 18, 2, and 0 percent of their respective May 24 averages. The statewide snowpack average as of May 24 was only 1 inch of snow water equivalent (SWE) which is 5 percent of the May 24 average. Only 8 of the 95 currently functioning snow pillows register any snow at all. Up to 1 inch of SWE will accumulate in the Northern and Central Sierra with Friday's storm, but this will melt off quickly through the Memorial Day weekend.

Weather and Climate Outlook:

The CNRFC 6-day QPF and Freezing Level Forecast, issued this morning, suggests up to 0.7 inches of precipitation may fall on the North Coast, Northern Sierra, and Central Sierra tonight through Saturday morning. Dry and warming conditions are expected following the storm. Freezing elevations may go as low as 6,700 feet in the Sierra range on Friday, but will rise back up above 12,500 feet by next Tuesday.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) one-month (June) and three-month (June – August) outlooks have not been updated since last issued on May 17.

If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff. We are happy to help.

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Important Links:

Bulletin 120 Email Subscription Information

To subscribe and un-subscribe to the B120 notification email
<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/b120>.

Water Supply Index (WSI) Email Subscription Information

To subscribe and un-subscribe to the WSI notification email
<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/WSI>

Full Natural Flow Data:

Daily FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF

Monthly FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM

Seasonal FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT

Precipitation Data:

Latest Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=8SI&d=today>

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Tabulation

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations_Tab.pdf

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=5SI&d=today>

San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Tabulation

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations_Tab.pdf

WY Precipitation Summary

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/precip/PRECIPSUM>

Snow Data:

Latest Snow Sensor Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>

Latest Statewide Summary of Snow Water Equivalents

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Monthly Snow Course Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/COURSES>

Extended Regional Forecasts:

California Nevada River Forecast Center 6 Day QPF and Snow Level Forecast

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOHD6RSA.php>

Climate Prediction Center One-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>

Drought Information:

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html